

REMARKS

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0022695 to Ueno et al. The grounds for rejection remain the same as set forth in the previous Office Action.

Applicants traverse, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider in view of the amendment to claims and the following remarks.

The Examiner considered the viscosity modifier of present claim 2 itself as representing a thermoplastic polyester resin composition. Also, the Examiner compared the viscosity modifier of the invention with component (A) of Ueno et al. Particularly, the Examiner considered that the monomers corresponding to components (a) to (c) of the invention are described in Ueno et al., and that the number-average molecular weight of the straight-chain polyester (A) of Ueno et al. overlaps the weight average molecular weight of the viscosity modifier of the present invention.

However, the present invention relates to a thermoplastic polyester resin composition comprising a viscosity modifier obtained from specific monomers and a thermoplastic polyester resin. The inventive composition therefore differs from the polymer of Ueno et al. obtained by polymerizing terephthalate oligomers while adding monomers such as GMA, wherein the oligomers result from an alcoholysis reaction of collected waste polyethylene terephthalate by an aliphatic glycol having an ether bond, (b) and (c).

To clarify the above-noted differences, claim 2 has been amended to recite that the thermoplastic polyester resin composition comprises 0.1 to 50 parts by weight of a specific viscosity modifier and 100 parts by weight of thermoplastic polyester resin, and that the viscosity modifier contains up to 65% by weight of a unit derived from a vinyl monomer other than an alkyl(meth)acrylate.

Moreover, claim 2 has been amended to more clearly recite that the viscosity modifier consists essentially of units (a) to (c) in their respective amounts, which viscosity modifier has a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 400,000.

As mentioned above, the Examiner considered Synthesis Example 1 of Ueno et al. as disclosing monomers corresponding to components (a) to (c) of present claim 2. In Ueno et al., however, waste polyethylene terephthalate as a raw material and phthalic anhydride and GMA are polymerized with the collected waste PET to obtain a liquid resin. On the other hand, the viscosity modifier of the present invention comprises units derived from alkyl(meth)acrylate. Thus, the present invention where the viscosity modifier consists essentially of components (a) to (c) differs from the polymer of Ueno et al. in terms of composition, wherein PET is the main constituent of component (A) of Ueno et al.

In the invention, the viscosity modifier is added to 100 parts by weight of a saturated thermoplastic polyester resin, generally, a polycondensation product of an aromatic dicarboxylic acid component and a diol component. To the contrary, in Ueno et al., ethylenically unsaturated monomer (B) and the air-drying unsaturated polyester (C) are polymerized with the above component (A), and then a predetermined amount of a curing agent is added to form a cast sheet.

Namely, Ueno et al. does not disclose the resin composition of the present invention, comprising 100 parts by weight of a thermoplastic polyester resin and 0.1 to 50 parts by weight of the claimed viscosity modifier.

Moreover, air-drying unsaturated polyester (C) of Ueno et al. absolutely is a thermosetting resin. This is because the polyester (C) is *unsaturated*.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims define novel subject matter and are patentable over Ueno et al. Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection and allowance of claims 2-7 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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